(b) whether the pace of projects executed under PPP has been slow with only 21 of 37 submitted proposals getting in principle approval; and

(c) if so, to what extent the Ministries have agreed to set up PPP cell with technical experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Finance had requested all infrastructure and Economic Ministries and Departments to set up PPP Cells. Several Ministries/Departments have set up PPP Cells. Subsequently, certain Ministries were requested to consider availing assistance under the World Bank grant to strengthen their PPP Cells. A response from some Ministries has been received confirming their acceptance to the proposal. Under the VGF Scheme, 38 proposals have been received, of which "in principle" approval has been granted to 23 proposals. In the case of 5 of these proposals, the bidding process has been completed. Out of the remaining proposals, one is under active consideration, 8 are not admissible under the Scheme and 6 have outstanding issues which has been referred to the Project Authorities.

Credit flow to farmers in Andhra Pradesh

4321. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2654 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 2006 and state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested a credit flow in 2006-07 of Rs. 13,817.78 crore to 16 districts identified by Ministry of Agriculture, which have reported maximum number of suicides by farmers;

(b) the details of action taken in this regard and the amount of credit flow taken place so far, district-wise pertaining to 16 districts;

(c) if not, whether Government would assure of taking immediate steps to curb such maximum unfortunate suicidal deaths of farmers through immediate credit flow; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per the rehabilitation package

approved by the Government for farmers in the 16 identified distressed districts in Andhra Pradesh, the credit flow for the year 2006-07 by all agencies has been worked out at Rs. 13,817.78 crore. As against the overall target of Rs. 13,817.78 crore, the total credit disbursed in 16 districts by all agencies was Rs. 12,627.23 crore (provisional figures as at the end the March, 2007), forming almost 91 per cent of target. District-wise position is not readily available with NABARD.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Setting up of regulatory authorities

4322. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up regulatory authorities for Petroleum, Civil Aviation and Railways;

(b) whether regulation in banking, commodity futures market, capital market, insurance, telecommunications and power were in place and were reasonably well-established;

(c) whether all Ministries have agreed for this proposal;

(d) if so, by when a final decision for regulatory authorities are to be established in these sections; and

(e) to what extent this decision has proved helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Government has decided to set up Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board. The final decision to set up Airport Economic Regulatory Authority will be taken once the AERA Bill is introduced in the Parliament and is passed by it. There was a proposal to set up a tariff regulatory authority for the Railways, but it was rejected by Ministry of Railways. Regulators in banking, commodity futures market, capital market, insurance, telecommunication and power are already in place and are reasonably well established.

(e) This decision has proved helpful to the extent of ensuring orderly functioning of various sectors and preventing the abuse of monopoly powers.